

## GERMANY STRIKES AT WAR PROFITS

New Tax Measure Rates Take from 5 to 45 Per Cent of Earnings.

## PENALTIES SEVERE FOR TAX DODGERS

Government Also to Take Part of Property Increment, Instead of Income Rate.

Berlin, Feb. 26.—Germany's new expected taxation measures were announced today by the government. They include taxes upon the war profits of individuals and corporations and also indirect measures of taxation.

The war profits measure is divided into two sections. The section for individuals takes the form of a graduated tax on property increment between January 1, 1914, and 1917. The tax commences with 5 per cent upon the first 20,000 marks and rises in successive stages to 25 per cent on increases over 500,000 marks.

A direct tax upon increased incomes is avoided, owing to the objections of individual states of the empire to which the income tax is reserved, by an ingenious subterfuge. Taxing increase in the value of property.

In order to checkmate various devices of tax dodgers it is provided that gifts to children and others and money invested abroad during the war must be reported to the authorities.

Individuals who have been putting away profits in jewelry, paintings and other articles of art or luxury which are personal property heretofore have escaped taxation must return them at purchase value. As a further measure persons moving into the country or attempting to send property abroad before the date of the collection may be forced to deposit with the authorities enough to cover the tax. A jail penalty is provided for offenders.

The corporation tax on war time profits starts with 10 per cent on the additional yearly profits made during the war, as compared with the average annual profits, when this additional profit does not exceed 2 per cent of the corporation's capital stock. It rises to 30 per cent when the additional profits exceed 20 per cent of the capital.

Real "war babies" with heavy war profits are further hit by a provision increasing the rate of taxation when the actual lot of increased profits exceeds 10 per cent on the capital stock. This entails a 10 per cent surcharge to the tax, the surcharge rising in graduated stages to 50 per cent additional when the company is in a position to declare profits of 20 per cent.

In this way a corporation whose increased profits during the war in a year amount to 20 per cent of its capital and whose total annual profits amount to 30 per cent of its capital will contribute to the treasury 45 per cent of its additional earnings.

Foreign corporations are to pay from 10 to 45 per cent of their additional profits, regardless of the height of the capital stocks, gains of 50,000 marks

and under paying 10 per cent. The high limit of 45 per cent is reached upon gains of more than 2,000,000 marks.

The text of the measures concerning indirect taxation is not published, but the government indicates that the tax on tobacco can be and will be materially increased without bringing the burden on tobacco users up to the level prevailing either in Great Britain or France. The tobacco imports in Germany during 1912 yielded 273 pfennigs per capita of population, as compared with 628 pfennigs in England and 795 pfennigs in France.

The tax on cheap inland tobaccos will be light compared with that on imported tobacco, and there will be an increased stamp tax on cigarettes.

In a general explanation the "Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung" points out that the new measures are not intended as a payment of the costs of the war, which must be left until peace times, but says they provide interest charges on the war debt and make up for other deficits in the ordinary budget of the empire.

## BELIEVED PETROLITE HAD U. S. FLAG DISGUISE

So Austrian Officer Fired On Vessel, Vienna Intimates.

Washington, Feb. 26.—Austria, supplementing her request for more information concerning the American protest against the submarine attack on the American tank steamer Petrolite in the Mediterranean, has informed the United States that her version of the affair is that the submarine commander thought the Petrolite was an enemy ship disguised under the American flag, that he fired upon her as the ship changed her course, and he believed she was about to ram him, and that the Petrolite's captain voluntarily furnished provisions to the submarine.

Secretary Lansing said today that Austria's communication was not a reply to the American protest and could not be considered either acceptable or unacceptable. All the facts available to the State Department have been sent to Vienna and a further reply is being awaited.

Captain Thomas, of the Petrolite, which now is at Hampton Roads, called at the State Department today and supplemented his statement on the incident.

## AVANCHES KILL FIVE

Swiss Frontier Posts Overwhelmed and Railway Blocked by Slides.

Berne, Feb. 26.—Numerous avalanches have occurred in the last few days and several Swiss frontier posts have been overwhelmed by the slides. Five soldiers have been killed. Others who were buried have been dug out alive.

Numerous mountain roads and the Bernina Railway, between Switzerland and Italy, have been completely blocked by avalanches.

The body of Henry Hoffmann, of New York, believed to have been killed in an avalanche in the Engadine Mountains, has not yet been recovered.

33 U. S. Nurses Go to War.

London, Feb. 26.—Thirty-three American nurses, most of them from Mercy Hospital, Chicago, left London today for the British front. They have been detailed to service for six months in field hospitals, and have been in London for nearly two weeks, gathering their equipment.

## ENGLISH DISCUSS PEACE MINIMUM

Premier Asquith's Statement Judged Unsatisfying in One Essential.

## TALK CUT SHORT BY VERDUN NEWS

Question Inevitably Postponed Until After Spring Advances in East and West.

By ARTHUR S. DRAPER.

London, Feb. 26.—Though Premier Asquith's speech renewing his declaration as to the only kind of peace acceptable to Great Britain reaches the view of an overwhelming majority of his countrymen, there are certain men, not all pacifists, who are regretting that the Prime Minister did not explain what he meant by the phrase, "The military domination of Prussia must be finally entirely overthrown," nor indicate what should be the judge of the accomplishment or non-accomplishment of that feat.

Until the great Teutonic offensive against Verdun assumed proportions which crowded everything else out of public interest the peace debate was the feature of the week's news. Premier Asquith said that he did not believe the war would end in a draw, but that "time will show whether we can secure a decisive victory."

This statement naturally prompted the line of thought that if the Allies grew stronger while Germany weakened the time would come when their superiority over Germany would be proportionately as great as the Kaiser's superiority over the Allies a year ago. In brief, under such circumstances the military positions would be reversed.

Fundamental Question Stated.

But if Germany, with all her long years of preparation, has so far been unable to crush the Allies, the problem naturally arises how the Allies can hope to crush Germany. If Germany is driven back to her frontier she will have the support of fortifications admittedly strong before the war and unquestionably reinforced since. The military critics can undoubtedly answer the argument satisfactorily, it is believed, but the man in the street, who asks it, reasons that even a draw would mean a defeat for Germany, inasmuch as she was the aggressor and had been unable to accomplish her object.

The "business-as-usual" attitude, in which still persisted here six months ago, has now entirely disappeared. A half a year has seen an amazing change in this respect, nothing having helped so much to bring the whole nation to a realization of the war's steady drain on men. The increased taxation and the high prices worried and annoyed, but the real wrench came only when husband, son and brother were called upon.

"The Nation" says:

"We think that a further and clearer exposition of the political and moral case of the Allies was required. In referring to Premier Asquith's speech the same periodical says: 'We shall prosecute war,' said the Prime Minister, 'until Belgium and Serbia have been more than reinstated, until France is made secure from the threat of a third aggression, until the rights of small nationalities are guaranteed and until the Prussian military abomination is wholly and finally destroyed.'

Britain's Minimum Hinted.

"This is not, of course, a statement of terms, but rather a description of the military situation on which we will hint of the minimum which will content us. M. Sazonoff, the Russian Foreign Minister, drew, we think, the proper distinction, which Mr. Asquith might also have emphasized, between a breakdown of the colossal egoism of the German military policy and the destruction of the German peoples.

"The distinction is important, for, unless we emphasize it, we may obscure all the ideals of the war."

"The Spectator" represents what is undoubtedly the country's true feeling in the following comment on Premier Asquith's speech:

"If it could be that we should have to drag along with a broken wing for two or three generations, crushed with

debt, distracted by the social and political difficulties which follow in the tracks of commercial depression, the war will still have been worth while.

"It is a thousand times better to be free and in rags, to live at liberty in ruins, than to endure the chain of oppression sleek and well fed in the Prussian sty."

The general opinion seems to be that no new effort to draw out the Government on the question of peace will come until well into the spring, when the weather has permitted the armies to attempt decisive advances in the east, as well as the west.

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